

Veterans Benefits Administration

You are here

We are here
to help you
achieve
your goals



VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Overview

1. Prioritization of Homeless Claims

2. Compensation

3. Service Connection

4. VA Pension

5. Character of Discharge

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VA Homeless Veteran Claims

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Homeless categories recognized by VBA
 - Homeless
 - Imminent Risk of Becoming Homeless
 - Formerly Homeless
- Homeless Coordinators
 - Homeless Veteran Claims Coordinator
 - Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator

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VA Disability Compensation

- What is VA Disability Compensation
 - Paid to Veterans because of injuries or disease related to active military service
 - Tax Free
- Who is Eligible
 - Service-related disability or illness
 - Other than Dishonorable Discharge
- How Much Does VA Pay
 - Monetary benefits range from 10% to 100%

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VA Service Connection

- What is VA Service Connection
 - Describes an injury or disease that has resulted in a disability linked to military service
 - Evidence has established medical condition and service link
- How is VA Service Connection Established
 - Direct
 - Secondary
 - Presumptive
 - Aggravation

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VA Pension

- What is VA Pension
 - Needs-based benefit for Wartime Veterans age 65 or older, or
 - Veteran with a permanent & total non-service connected disability
- Who is Eligible
 - You were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
 - You served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time, **AND**
 - Your countable income is below the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (**as of 12/01/2019 \$13,752**), **AND**
 - You meet the net worth limitations, **AND**
 - You are age 65 or older, **OR**, you have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability, **OR**, you are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR** you are receiving Social Security disability benefits

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VA Pension Periods of War

Mexican Border Period	May 9, 1916 – April 5, 1917
World War I	April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918 April 6, 1917 – April 1, 1920 (service in Russia)
World War II	December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
Korean Conflict	June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955
Vietnam Era	August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975 (served in country) February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 (did not serve in country)
Gulf War	August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

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Character of Discharge

- Why is the Character of Discharge (COD) important
 - Honorable Discharge
 - Under Honorable Conditions Discharge
 - General Discharge
- When is a COD determination required?
 - Undesirable Discharge
 - Other-Than-Honorable Discharge
 - Bad Conduct Discharge

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Character of Discharge

- What is a Statutory Bar to Benefits?
 - Conscientious objection and refusal to perform military duty, wear the uniform, or comply with lawful orders of competent military authorities
 - Being sentenced by General Court-Martial (GCM)
 - Resignation by an officer for the good of the service
 - An alien during a period of hostilities
 - Absence without official leave for continuous period of at least 180 days, and desertion
- How does the Character of Discharge Upgrade Process get started?
 - VA Form 20-0986
 - VA disability claim

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Honolulu Regional Benefits Office Contact Information

Request an Interview with a Benefits Counselor:	(808) 433-0505
Send a Request to the Public Contact Mailbox:	pctc.vbahon@va.gov
Contact the Veteran Readiness & Employment Office:	(808) 433-0566
Send a Request to the Veteran Readiness & Employment Office:	VRC.VBAHON@va.gov
Contact a VA Home Loan Guaranty Representative:	1-877-827-3702
Send a Request to the Honolulu-based Home Loan Guaranty Office:	LGY.VBAHON@va.gov
VA National Call Center	1-800-827-1000